

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that a jury in East St. Louis returned guilty verdicts on all 18 counts of health care program fraud and mail fraud charged against defendants Richard Wallace, age 66, and Downstate Transportation Services, Inc. of Carterville, Illinois. The charges involved excessive claims for mileage in providing government paid transportation for non-emergency medical transportation for Medicaid patients. Sentencing is set for May 14, 2007.

The investigation was conducted by agents of the Illinois State Police Medicaid Fraud Control Bureau and the United States Department of Health and Human Services-Office of Inspector General. The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Bradley K. Hart with the aid of Assistant Attorney General Stephannie Santelli and Assistant U.S. Attorney Mike Quinley.